Zeiny (I)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINEHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1956.

The Registrar General's figure for the population of the town is 7,430; the figure for 1955 being 7,440 ; for 1954, 7,410, and for 1953, 7,333. It is probable that during the summer holidays this figure is more than doubled. The seasonal increase usually commences in June and continues until September. There are also minor variations at Easter and Christmas. The large majority of the hotels, boarding houses and apartments close down for the winter months. The health of the community during the year was satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births -	Legitimate	76	37	39
	Illegitimate	5	1	4

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.9.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	110	45	65

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.8.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :- 0.

WATER SUPPLY.

This has been satisfactory throughout the year in quantity and quality.

The main supply from Nutscale Reservoir, with the auxiliary supplies from Broadwood, Longwood and Periton, was equal to the demand. Restrictions were imposed from the 13th July to the 17th August on the use of hosepipes for washing cars and watering gardens. This was a precautionary measure in view of the long drought preceding this period and not to any actual shortage.

The quality of the water is excellent. As in all wide catchment area supplies, contamination is always a possibility particularly in those having a large holiday population.

The bacteriological examinations carried out periodically of the raw water indicated the advisability of treating the supply before making it available to the public. This has been done and all water is treated before consumption. The bacteriological picture of the treated water is quite satisfactory.

Extensions or Improvements of Supplies during year.

New 4" main extension, Staunton Road.
New 4" main extension, Manor Road.
Link up between Alcombe and Turnhill Lea supplies.
Renewal of 6" main in Summerland Road, Summerland Avenue and Glenmore Road.

Future Proposals.

Scraping and relining mains in Warren Road and Northfield Road.
Link up of Broadwood and Longwood supplies to Staunton Reservoir.
Completion of link up between Alcombe and Turnhill Lea.

SWIMMING POOLS.

There is one swimming pool situated on the sea front which is privately owned. This pool is filled with sea water which undergoes chlorination before being admitted to the pool. The filtration and chlorination plant are under skilled management and the engineer is on duty the whole of the time the bath is in operation. Frequent testing indicates that the water carried the necessary amount of residual chlorine to ensure a safe bathing water. Samples submitted from time to time were all found to be satisfactory.

The efficiency of the management of the Swimming Pool and the condition of the bathing water have at no time given rise to any anxiety.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Since my last report the question of the sewage disposal of the town has been dealt with by your Council. The report of the experts employed has been before you and has been the subject of your deliberations. It appears that financial considerations will have to be the ruling factor in dealing with this matter.

With regard to beach contamination this has been shown to be a matter of national rather than local action and is at present receiving the attention of the Pathological Investigation Department of the Ministry of Health. For the present the subject is sub judice and precipitate action contraindicated.

Practically all the houses in the district are served by water-closet accommodation, only 11 are not so served. Of these 7 are pail closets and 4 earth closets.

The public cleansing is done by direct labour. During the season there is a considerable increase in the quantity of litter created by the visitors to the town and sea front. Complaints on this matter have been received from time to time. The allocation of more personnel to this branch of public cleansing should have the desired effect of abating the nuisance. I am assured that constant supervision is being maintained. The controlled tip which is situated beyond Quay West is in good condition and the disinfecting plant is satisfactory.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat is prepared for human food at the Minehead Abattoir from where it is distributed throughout the districts of Minehead, Watchet and Williton. So far as is practical all animals are inspected before slaughter and all carcases and offal are inspected in accordance with instructions laid down in Memo. 62 Foods, and appropriate action taken where required.

All places where food is prepared,etc., including the Abattoir, shops, stalls and vehicles are inspected from time to time and action taken as required . Generally the cleanliness of these establishments and vehicles is satisfactory.

A list of premises used in this context in alphabetical order follows:-

Bakehouses	4	Fishmongers	4
Bakers Shops	4	Fried Fish Shops	2
Butchers	9	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	8
Cafes	19	Grocers	31
Chemists	5	Hostels	1
Clubs, etc.	13	Hotels with Restaurants	11
Canteens	2	Hotels, Residential	43
Church Halls	7	Licensed Premises	9
Confectioners	8	Pie Factory	1
Dairies	1		
Dairy Shops	3		

The number of inspections given to these premises was 695 during the year.

The care and cleanliness of these premises was found to be satisfactory.

The method of disposal of such food as is condemned is by burning. No large quantities of food were dealt with.

MEAT INSPECTION 1956.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	759	132	266	5140	2568	-
Number Inspected	759	132	266	5140	2568	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	3	-	5	5	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	117	56	-	85	129	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	15.4	44.7	-	0.17	0.51	-
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	6	-	-	48	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.09	0.45	-	-	0.18	-
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-	ALL ANIMALS					
(a) Tuberculosis	1349					
(b) Cysticercosis	-					
(c) Other	4730					
Total (in lbs.) condemned	6079					

MILK.

The milk supply during the year was satisfactorily maintained. Samples taken from time to time that did not come up to the required standard were investigated and the cause ascertained and remedied.

(a) The total number of Registered Distributors was 4.
(b) The total number of Registered Dairy Premises was 1.
(c) The number of Licenced Dealers of Designated Milk was 5.
(d) The number of supplementary licences issued to Distributors whose dairy is outside this area was Nil.

MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM.

The regulations governing this manufacture and the requirements implicit in them have tended to restrict the preparation of ice cream to the large wholesale houses. The distributors find it more profitable to purchase their ice cream in bulk.

HOUSING.

The total number of houses is 2,542. 25 houses were erected during the year; 8 by the Local Authority and 17 by private enterprise. 18 houses were in course of erection at the close of the year.

The total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year was approximately 93.

The number of Post War houses erected up to the 31st December 1956 was:-

By Local Authority - 226
By Private Enterprise - 113.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1949-1954.

Number of applications and houses dealt with by the Local Authority:-

	Received		Approved		Rejected	
	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings	Applications	No. of dwellings
31. 7. 49 - 31.12. 55.	7	8	6	6	1	2
During year	1	1	1	1	-	-
Totals	8	9	7	7	1	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	51	-	-
Carried forward	70	65	-	-

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Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Brought forward	70	65	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	70	65	-	-

Cases in which defects were found:- Nil.

Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)

Wearing apparel 5.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year 1956 is not distinguished by any serious outbreaks of any of the specific fevers. Two cases of Poliomyelitis occured in the January and were treated at the Taunton Isolation Hospital. Both cases were ultimately transferred to the Orthopaedic Hospital at Bath for further remedial treatment to the affected areas.

Sporadic cases of measles and whooping cough occured during the fall of the year, but not in sufficient numbers to justify the use of the word epidemic. Three cases of scarlet fever were notified.

Cases requiring institutional isolation are sent to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection of premises after infectious disease is carried out by the Local Authority, also after cases of an unhygienic or unpleasant nature on receipt of a written request from the General Practitioner in attendance.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 5 new cases of tuberculosis notified. There were no deaths.

HOSPITAL.

The Minehead and West Somerset Hospital is entirely administered by the Bridgwater, Minehead and Butleigh Management Committee.

Local representation in the management of the Hospital exists in the House Committee of the Hospital, on which the town is represented. This Committee is responsible for the day to day supervision of the Institution and is empowered to make recommendations and representations to the Committee of Management. The Committee of Management is represented on the Committee by three of its members.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

During the year under review the ambulance services vested by the Ministry in the County Council have been carried out by the St. John Ambulance Brigade to the entire satisfaction of the Community. Under the arrangement with the County Council the cost of the running and maintainance of the ambulances is the concern of the County Council. Three ambulances and two sitting case cars are based on the St. John Ambulance Headquarters and six full-time ambulance drivers are maintained. The remainder of the service which includes all night work, is carried out by the local ambulance and nursing divisions. This part of the Service is voluntary and maintained with the financial support of the general public.

CLINICS.

Clinics with the exception of Infant Welfare, are now held at the Minehead and West Somerset Hospital.

VITAL STATISTICS.

An analysis of the vital statistics shows that the total deaths registered were 110, in 1955 the number was 134.

The total of live births were 81 compared with 64 the previous year.

With regard to the deaths occurring in age groups, 16 occurred between 60 and 70; 79 occurred over the age of 70, and of these 38 occurred between 70 and 80; 32 between 80 and 90, and 9 at 90 or over. It would seem that of the 110 deaths only 31 failed to reach the three score years and ten.

Consideration of the causes of deaths shows that 72 deaths resulted from diseases of the circulatory system, this figure being the same as the previous year, but a percentage comparison gives 65 per cent for this year in contrast with 53 per cent the previous year, in other words the diseases associated with stress and strain show a further increase.

Of these 72 deaths, lesions of the coronary vessels of the heart number 10, and vascular lesions of the nervous system 23. There were 8 deaths due to respiratory disease. The total number of deaths from malignant disease was 18 compared with 23 the previous year.

The development of the town continues on the lines that have been laid down; open spaces are retained wherever possible and the colourful cultivation of the smaller spaces has a very happy effect. Garden space to the new cottages and houses is also having a very pleasureable result.

The growth of the town continues at a slightly reduced rate this year; 25 houses being erected during the year, 8 by the Local Authority and 17 by Private Enterprise.

The water supply, as I have already mentioned, has been adequate for all the needs of the community. The storage proved sufficient in spite of the prolonged drought. The town is fortunate in having such an ample supply to meet the demands of the seasonal influx of visitors without being put to any inconvenience therefrom.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I have referred to this matter in a previous part of this report. This problem, which has for so long occupied your attention is rapidly approaching a satisfactory solution. Unfortunately the time covered by this report does not include the resolutions which were finally adopted. One may, however, say that a satisfactory conclusion has been practically arrived at.

The vital statistics and the notifications of infectious diseases indicate that illness has not been too prevalent or severe during the period covered by this report.

Compared with the immediate surrounding country the cleanliness and freedom from litter of the town does not suffer by the comparison.

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I should like to close with an expression of appreciation to all those who have worked for the welfare of the town and in particular to the Council for its patience in dealing with the matters that I have from time to time brought before them; to my colleagues in its service my thanks for their courtesy and help in all those matters concerning the public health.

W. BAIN,

M.B., B.S., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1957.